

FEARED DISGRACE, SO HE RAN AWAY.

Borough Clerk Wood, of
Ridgefield, Disappears
Very Suddenly.

Was Secretary of a Building and
Loan Association and Is
Short in His Accounts.

Model Church Member and Devoted
Husband, Yet He Left Wife
and Family.

AMOUNT OF MISSING MONEY SMALL

Confessed to His Father-in-Law in New
York Before His Flight, and Said
That He Intended Never to
Return to Ridgefield.

George S. Wood, borough clerk of Ridgefield, Bergen County, N. J., has disappeared, and his books as secretary of the Ridgefield Building and Loan Association are in somewhat of a tangled condition. The experts now at work on them have discovered a shortage, though the amount is comparatively trifling and scarcely sufficient to prompt a man to forsake his home and family.

The good people of Ridgefield and the adjacent town of Fairview are greatly excited over Mr. Wood's disappearance, for both he and his wife were great favorites. The building and loan association is one of the institutions of the town. Mayor W. B. Pugh, of Ridgefield, is president of it, and Dr. Ayres, Mayor of Fairview, is Vice-President.

It is customary each year to have the books of the association examined by accountants. This year when the time came for the regular overhauling of the accounts Mr. Wood said he was behind in posting his ledger, and requested a few days time. It was granted, and at the expiration of the time requested asked for a longer extension. This was also granted, but a third one was refused. Then he refused to turn the books over.

The officers of the association talked the matter over among themselves, and Mayor Pugh visited Wood's home Wednesday, and was informed by Mrs. Wood that her husband had left by an early train Monday and she had no idea what had become of him. The Mayor took charge of the books and lost no time in turning them over to experts, who, before they had progressed very far, discovered irregularities.

Mayor Pugh then came to New York and called on Norman P. Benley, Wood's father-in-law, and learned that Wood had been to see Mr. Benley Monday and confessed that he had gotten into trouble in Ridgefield and never intended to return there. This was the last heard of him.

Mayor Pugh said yesterday that as far as the shortage to the Building and Loan Association was concerned, it was not necessary for Wood to run away, for the officers had no intention of beginning any criminal proceedings.

"We can lose nothing," the Mayor said, "for Mr. Wood was under a bond which will cover everything. The amount in-

involved cannot be very much, for, as secretary, he only had possession of what money was paid to him during the month. As clerk of the house, he had the handling of no money. I cannot quite understand why he should have run away. There were tears in Mrs. Wood's eyes yesterday when she said she had no idea what had become of her husband. She has two pretty children. It was said that Wood is extremely sensitive, and did not have the courage to remain and face the officers of the association after they learned that he was short, even to a trifling amount. He is about thirty-five years of age and is said to have been a devoted husband and model member of the Episcopal Church.

A VALUABLE TIP.
The great Christmas edition of the Journal will be out next Sunday. It has taken weeks to prepare this magnificent paper, so that when the first edition is exhausted a second is out of the question. Order it to-day, or by to-morrow at the latest, or you may be left lamenting your lack of foresight.

TOO COLD TO HOLD ON.
Drowning Man Fell from the Rope the Ferry-boat Newburg's Deckhands Flung Him.

While Captain Franz of the ferryboat Newburg, of the West Shore Line, was acting as lookout at 4 o'clock yesterday morning during a trip from Weehawken to this city, cries for help were heard off Castle Point, on the Jersey shore. Captain Franz was able to make out the form of a man sitting astride the keel of an up-turned rowboat.

While Deckhands James Higgins and Herman Etzel were making ready a life-line, the Captain inquired of the man what the matter was, and he shouted back that he had sprung a leak. When the ferryboat drew near enough the life preserver was thrown to the man, but he made no attempt to take it.

The line was thrown to the man again, and he seized it and was drawn toward the boat, but while being pulled up he let go and fell back into the water and disappeared.

Higgins described the man as between thirty-five and forty years of age. He seemed, from the few words he let drop to be an Irishman, speaking with a thick brogue. His actions were those of a man and child through when he finally grasped the line. After waiting about the spot for twenty minutes the Newburg proceeded to this city.

What the man's business was at that hour of the morning on the North River in an open boat is a mystery to the police. Neither the body nor the boat has been recovered.

Columbus Southern at Auction.
Columbus, Ga., Dec. 10.—Special Master James English yesterday sold the Columbus Southern Railway at public outcry. There was but one bid, \$700,000, by J. J. Anderson and E. J. Williams, acting in the interest of the Georgia & Alabama Railroad, which road will operate the Columbus Southern.

STEINWAY
Pre-eminently the best Pianos made: exported to and sold in all art centers of the globe, and endorsed and performed for by the greatest artists and scientists. Illustrated Catalogues mailed free upon application.

STEINWAY & SONS, 107-111 E. 14th St., NEW YORK.

A CLUMSY BLACKMAILER. HOW DID PALMER VOTE?

Presented a Bogus Jury Subpoena to Henry Birn and Attempted to Have That Gentleman "Fix It."

Henry Birn, a glass dealer at No. 197 Grand street, told Special District Attorney Davis yesterday of a bold attempt that had been made to blackmail him by a man who claimed to be a subpoena server in the Court of General Sessions. The swindler had come to him at his business place and presented what purported to be a subpoena commanding him to appear as a juror in Part II, City Court. The paper was signed by "John H. Ingultrum, Judge," and "Thomas J. McCoy, Commissioner of Jurors."

The alleged subpoena server said it could be "fixed" so Mr. Birn would not have to break in on his business hours to appear in court.

"If you are not in court and this affair is not 'fixed,' you will be fined \$50," said the stranger.

"I'll just keep this paper and appear," said Mr. Birn.

The stranger was startled at this announcement. For twenty minutes he lingered in the store and tried to persuade Mr. Birn to return the paper to him.

Mr. Davis's henchmen in the hands of the detectives connected with the District Attorney's office.

THE WEATHER.
Official forecast for to-day indicates fair and warmer weather.

Special Notices.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Engaged.
SEABURY-GREEN.—The engagement is announced of Rena Symmes Seabury, daughter of George J. Seabury, to David Elmer Green, Jr., of Llewellyn Park, Orange, N. J.

Deaths.
M'CORMICK.—Abbie, daughter of Mrs. Bernard M'Cormick, died on Thursday evening, after a long illness.

Religious Notices.
GIANT Magazine. religious, political, silver, at Hotel Bartholdi, 254 st. and all newspapers.

Personal.
A—KNOW your fate and fortune; consult Niblo, scientific palmist, 122 W. 23d st.; fee \$1.

Wanted.—An Idea Who can think of some simple thing to do? Protect your ideas; they may bring you fortune! Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Dept. F. I., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1,800 prize offer and new list of 1,000 inventions wanted.

Amusements.

NEW METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.
Grand Opera, Season 1896-7.
To-night—Joint appearance of Calve and Emma, CARL.
Calve, Baumeister, Van Cauteren and Emma, CARL.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 12, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 13, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 14, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 15, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 16, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 17, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 18, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 19, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 20, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 21, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 22, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 23, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 24, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 25, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 26, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 27, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 28, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 29, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. afternoon, Dec. 30, only matinee. 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.
Succ. evening, Dec. 31, at popular prices, Matinee, 12.30. P. M. 2.30. P. M.

THE HERALD SQUARE THEATRE.
Evenings 8:15. Mat. Wed. and Sat. at 2.30. P. M.
PRETTY GIRL Book by George Dances.
Management of **FROM PARIS.**
Edward E. Rice. In London.
Still playing at the **PARIS.**
Duke of York's Theatre.
Seats two weeks ahead.

KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE.
MR. HERBERT **TREE.**
A DOUBLE BILL THIS WEEK.
THE DANCING GIRL.
Preceded by SCENES FROM KING HENRY IV.
Evenings at 8. Mat. Wed. and Sat. at 2.30. P. M.

NEXT MONDAY
MR. TREE will present
TRILBY.
Seats now on sale.

MUSIC HALL, Vandewater, 8:15 P. M.
CHERRY SISTERS.
Winter Garden
Bal Champtre,
11 P. M.

LOUISE BEAUDET **NEXT MONDAY.**
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE, Eves. 8:15. Sat. Mat. 2.30. P. M.
A FLORIDA ENCHANTMENT.
Original Cast and Production.
Next week—first appearance in New York of this season.

OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE CO.—BOHEMIA
Viola Allen, May Robson, Wm. Faversham, J. H. Gilmore, etc. Same cast and scenes as the 1901-1902 season at the Empire Theatre.

Empire Theatre. **BROADWAY**
CHARLES FROHMAN. **AND 40TH ST.**
LAST 3 WEEKS.

JOHN DREW ROSEMARY.
Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays.
EVENINGS AT 8:20. MATINEES AT 2.30.

ST. NICHOLAS SKATING RINK.
Admission 50 Cents.
HOCKEY MATCH SAT. 8 P. M. N. Y. Athletic Club vs. N. Y. Hockey Club.

HOYT'S Theatre.
Immediate Success.
MY FRIEND FROM INDIA.
Evenings 8:15. Mat. Wed. and Sat. at 2.30. P. M.

GARRICK THEATRE.
Richard Mansfield, Lessee; Chas. Frohman, Mgr.
SECRET SERVICE.
Evenings 8:15. Mat. Wed. and Sat. at 2.30. P. M.

MURRAY HILL THEATRE.
145 W. 4th and 42d sts.
ROLAND REED
and his splendid company in
THE POLITICIAN.
Next week—ANDREW MACK in MYLES AROON.

5TH THEATRE Eves. at 8:15. Sat. Mat. at 2.30. P. M.
AN EMPHATIC SUCCESS.
H. CRANE
OF FORTUNE.
Engagement ends Jan. 2. Seats now on sale.

KEITH'S Continuous Performance.
25c, 50c, 75c, 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50, 7.00, 7.50, 8.00, 8.50, 9.00, 9.50, 10.00, 10.50, 11.00, 11.50, 12.00, 12.50, 13.00, 13.50, 14.00, 14.50, 15.00, 15.50, 16.00, 16.50, 17.00, 17.50, 18.00, 18.50, 19.00, 19.50, 20.00, 20.50, 21.00, 21.50, 22.00, 22.50, 23.00, 23.50, 24.00, 24.50, 25.00, 25.50, 26.00, 26.50, 27.00, 27.50, 28.00, 28.50, 29.00, 29.50, 30.00, 30.50, 31.00, 31.50, 32.00, 32.50, 33.00, 33.50, 34.00, 34.50, 35.00, 35.50, 36.00, 36.50, 37.00, 37.50, 38.00, 38.50, 39.00, 39.50, 40.00, 40.50, 41.00, 41.50, 42.00, 42.50, 43.00, 43.50, 44.00, 44.50, 45.00, 45.50, 46.00, 46.50, 47.00, 47.50, 48.00, 48.50, 49.00, 49.50, 50.00, 50.50, 51.00, 51.50, 52.00, 52.50, 53.00, 53.50, 54.00, 54.50, 55.00, 55.50, 56.00, 56.50, 57.00, 57.50, 58.00, 58.50, 59.00, 59.50, 60.00, 60.50, 61.00, 61.50, 62.00, 62.50, 63.00, 63.50, 64.00, 64.50, 65.00, 65.50, 66.00, 66.50, 67.00, 67.50, 68.00, 68.50, 69.00, 69.50, 70.00, 70.50, 71.00, 71.50, 72.00, 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